MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

MARCH 10, 2003

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

City Manager's Office and Planning & Code Administration Presenting for Staff –Trudy Schwarz, Community Planning Director

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
X	Public Hearing **Joint**
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	01/29/2003
	02/05/2003
	02/08/2003
	02/12/2003
New hearing date	02/21/2003
	02/26/2003
Hearing Date	03/10/2003
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	



TITLE: Z-291(A)

Joint Public Hearing on Z-291(A), Map Amendment for Hidden Creek Land Bay III

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

Hidden Creek I, LLC, Sandler at Hidden Creek LLC, Hidden Creek II, LLC and Churchill Development Corporation, ("applicants"), are requesting to amend the approved Zoning Map Amendment Application Z-291 by reducing the unit count from 727 dwelling units (18 Single Family Detached, 146 Single Family Attached, 112 2-over-2 Condominium and 451 Multi-Family Apartment Units) to 457 dwelling units (16 Single Family Detached, 325 Single Family Attached, and 116 2-over-2 Condominium Units) in accordance with §24-196 of the City Code (map amendments).

The subject property, known as Hidden Creek Land Bay III, is located east of Goshen Road, between Mid-County Highway and Girard Street and consists of approximately 56 acres. The subject property was part of the June 7, 1971 annexation resolution R-21-71 for X-096 authorizing the annexation of approximately 169 acres of land. On May 21, 2001, the Mayor and City adopted the Ordinance O-8-01 approving the map amendment application Z-291 to rezone the 56 acres of land known as Hidden Creek Land Bay III to the MXD (Mixed Use Development) Zone and a sketch plan depicting 727 dwelling units.

Following the joint public hearing, the application proceeds to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to the Mayor and Council. The application along with the Planning Commission's recommendation is forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for policy discussion, followed by the adoption of a resolution that incorporates the decision of the Mayor and City Council.

Attached:

List of Exhibits (Exhibits, in **Bold** are attached)

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Planning Commission Hold Record Open until March 20, 2003 (10 days)

Mayor and Council to Hold Record Open until April 1, 2003 (22 days)

Joint Public Hearing Mayor and City Council Planning Commission February 18, 2003 March 10, 2003

INDEX OF MEMORANDA Z-291(A)

<u>No.</u>	
1)	Letter requesting publication of the Legal Advertisement in the January 29, 2003 and February 5, 2003 edition of the Gaithersburg Gazette
2)	Amended Sketch Plan, Land Use
3)	Amended Sketch Plan, Green Area
4)	Amended Sketch Plan, Internal Roads
5)	Amended Sketch Plan, Circulation Systems
6)	Letter requesting publication of the Legal Advertisement in the February 7-9, 2003 Weekend and February 12, 2003 edition of the Gaithersburg Gazette
7)	Mayor and City Council Ordinance O-8-01 approving application Z-291
8)	Notice of Public Hearing as sent to properties within 200' on February 10, 2003
9)	Reduced version of Amended Sketch Plan, Land Use, Exhibit #2
10)	Application for Amendment to Zoning Map, Sketch Plan received Feb. 12, 2003
11)	Mayor and City Council Agenda Cover Sheet, February 18, 2003
12)	Certified copy of the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the February 7 & 12, 2003 issue of the Gaithersburg Gazette
13)	Notice of March 10, 2003 Public Hearing as sent to interested parties on February 19, 2003
14)	List of persons notified for the March 10, 2003 Joint Public Hearing
15)	Certified copy of the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the February 21, 2003 issue of the Gaithersburg Gazette
16)	Receipt for the Fee for Application for Amendment to Zoning Map, Sketch Plan Z-291(A)
17)	Letter, received March 3, 2003, from Ms. Sears and Mr. Brown, Linowes & Blocher to the Mayor and City Council and the Planning Commission RE: Background of Hidden Creek
18)	Amended Sketch Plan, Land Use, 8.5" by 11"
19)	Amended Sketch Plan, Green Area, 8.5" by 11"
20)	Amended Sketch Plan, Internal Roads, 8.5" by 11"
21)	Amended Sketch Plan, Circulation Systems, 8.5" by 11"
22)	Mayor and City Council Agenda Cover Sheet, March 10, 2003

ORDINANCE NO. 0-8-01

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE MAP AMENDMENT APPLICATION
Z-291, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 56 ACRES OF LAND
KNOWN AS PARCELS D, E, F AND G AND FORMER MASTER
PLANNED RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CASEY/GOSHEN TRACT, FROM
E-1 (URBAN EMPLOYMENT) ZONE, C-2 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) ZONE,
R-A (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) ZONE AND R-18 (MEDIUM DENSITY
RESIDENTIAL) ZONE TO THE MXD (MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT) ZONE, AND,
FURTHER, TO APPROVE A SKETCH PLAN SUBMITTED, AS
AMENDED, BEING PART OF THIS APPLICATION

Z-291

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled, that they find the following facts from the evidence of record in the Zoning Map Amendment application Z-291.

- 1. This application, filed by Odyssey Development LLC ("applicant"), on behalf of the Betty Brown Casey Trust, is for the property identified as Parcels D, E, F, and G and former master planned right-of-way of the Casey/Goshen Tract (hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Property"). The Subject Property contains approximately 56 acres of land, and is located east of Goshen Road, between Mid-County Highway and Girard Street. The Subject Property is bounded on the south by Girard Street and Parcel N-182, on the west by Goshen Road, on the north by Mid-County Highway, Parcel 760 and Parcel 672, and on the east by Parcel 60 (which consists of a tributary to Whetstone Run and approximately 25 acres of existing City parkland), Parcel 210 and Parcel 260.
- 2. The Subject Properties were part of the June 7, 1971 annexation resolution R-21-71 for X-096 authorizing the annexation of approximately 169.0826 acres of land known as the Casey/Goshen Tract and affixing and establishing zoning. Ordinance O-16-81 approved comprehensive zoning map amendment application Z-223 reclassifying and establishing zoning and reducing the potential residential dwelling unit yield to 837 for the entire annexed properties. Resolution R-19-97 adopted an amendment to the general plan Neighborhood One amending map designations 1 and 5. A comprehensive zoning was last approved for the subject area in 1997 confirming the existing zoning of the property.
- 3. The Subject Property is located within Neighborhood One, Study Area 1: Map Designation 5 of the Master Plan. The Master Plan recommends that the parcels remain C-2, E-1 and R-18 unless rezoned to Mixed Use Development (MXD). The Master Plan re-designated Map Designation 5 as "commercial-office-residential on parcels D, E, and F will promote a mixed use development with retail uses around the existing Summit Shopping Center." A mix of residential units is envisioned for this area with "single-family



detached units encouraged to be developed along the stream valley buffer so as provide a buffer between the school and commercial development." These properties are included in the approved 837 unit count permitted for the Casey/Goshen Tract as per Ordinance O-16-81 that approved the comprehensive zoning map amendment application Z-223 establishing the existing zoning designations. The applicant is proposing 727 units for the subject properties, leaving a balance of 110 units to be used on the remaining designated areas of the annexed Casey/Goshen Tract.

- 4. The applicant, who is the contract purchaser of the Subject Property, is requesting a map amendment to rezone approximately 56 acres of land known as the Casey/Goshen Tract Parcels D, E, F, and G and former Master Planned right-of-way, in the City of Gaithersburg, from the existing E-1 (Urban Employment) Zone, C-2 (General Commercial) Zone, R-A (Low Density Residential) and R-18 (Medium Density Residential) Zone to the MXD (Mixed Use Development) Zone, per Section 24-196 of the City's zoning regulations.
- 5. As required by the provisions of the MXD Zone, the applicant has submitted a sketch plan consisting of "Sketch Plan Land Use", "Sketch Plan Green Area", "Sketch Plan Internal Roads", "Sketch Plan Circulation Systems" and "Sketch Plan Sharing" plans (collectively, "Sketch Plan") generally reflecting the location, type and intensity of forms of development, the location of proposed roads and pedestrian paths, important preservation and open space areas, areas to be devoted to public/private use and recreational facilities, as well as, depicting the boundaries of the site and adjacent/existing uses and facilities. The Applicant submitted an Amended Sketch Plan on January 19, 2001 ("Amended Sketch Plan"). The proposed development as reflected in the sketch plan as amended, for the Subject Property is eighteen (18) single-family detached dwelling units, one hundred forty six (146) single-family attached dwelling units, one hundred twelve (112) condominium two-over-two dwelling units, four hundred fifty one (451) multi-family dwelling units for a total of 727 dwelling units. The applicant is also proposing through this application for approval of the subject local map amendment and Amended Sketch Plan, off-site transportation improvements, vehicular and pedestrian connections to the adjacent/existing commercial area, off-site hiker/biker trails within the adjacent City parkland, no significant impact to the adjacent stream valley buffer, a bike lane along Mid-County Highway, traffic calming measures along Girard Street, streetscape improvements along Goshen Road, participation in the Art in Public Places program, two additional bus shelters and the dedication of Parcel G to the City.
- 6. The development shall be required to abide by the minimum location, development and parking standards and requirements of the MXD Zoning District.
- 7. A threshold consideration for rezoning requires the applicant to demonstrate either a change in the character of the neighborhood since the last comprehensive zoning or a mistake in the property's existing zoning. The existing zoning was confirmed by comprehensive zoning in 1997 following the adoption of the Neighborhood One Master Plan amendment. That master plan amendment which was the predicate and basis for the following comprehensive zoning adopted commercial-office-residential land use

zoning for the property. The master plan amendment recognized that development of the property was subject to an amended annexation agreement which allowed 837 dwelling units and permitted employment/commercial densities on the Casey - Goshen Tract, yet the comprehensive zoning in 1997 confirmed E-1 (employment), C-2 (general commercial) R-18 zoning and R-A zoning within formerly recommended rights-of-way instead of a zoning category which would have provided a mixed use development of the residential nature and density envisioned in the amended annexation agreement and master plan with proper controls. It was assumed during the adoption of the 1997 Neighborhood One Master Plan and subsequent comprehensive zoning action in Ordinance 0-10-97 that mixed use zoning would be appropriate for the subject property. The MXD Zone was viewed as the zone that was most appropriate in light of the land area available to achieve the Master Plan density. Retention of the existing zoning by the City Council in Ordinance 0-10-97 was a basic and actual mistake. Reclassification to the MXD Zone and approval of the accompanying Amended Sketch Plan would with appropriate conditions to the sketch plan approval rectify that mistake and satisfy the terms of the annexation agreement.

8. A second required consideration for rezoning to the MXD classification is whether the application and accompanying plan meets or accomplishes the purposes, objectives and minimum standards of the zone pursuant to Section 24-160.10 of the City Code and any other relevant standards relating to approval of this classification in Section 24-160D generally. The City Council has reviewed the evidence of record and agrees with the recommendations of the Planning Commission and City Staff for approval of the application and sketch plan.

The City Council finds that the application meets the purposes, objectives and standards of the MXD Zone as set forth in Section 24-160D.1 of the City Code. The proposed zoning and development implements the land use and density recommendations of the master plan. The development will be staged in an orderly fashion to mitigate impacts on public facilities, particularly public schools. Design flexibility has been achieved in terms of site layout, amenities and housing product and design. The internal road and pathway system achieves an integrated, compatible connection between all site areas under consideration as well as nearby commercial uses. The use proposed is efficient and compatible internally and externally in terms of unit type and location and produces a circulation system and pedestrian linkages throughout the project to all housing units types, open space and amenity areas. Preservation of nature features has been achieved in a satisfactory fashion and will be subject to more detailed reviews in the land use process.

As previously stated the application is in accord with the 1997 Neighborhood One Master Plan and the sketch plan produces internally and externally compatible land use with existing and planned uses within this development and adjacent areas. The application and sketch plan provides for a mix of residential types and densities. The more intense areas of the site are located away from lower density residential development in adjacent areas yet reflect a mix of housing types which produce a visually interesting and integrated residential development. The City Council therefore concludes

that the evidence reflects that the application meets the findings required to approve the MXD classification.

- 9. The City Council further finds that the 1997 Neighborhood One Master Plan recommended mixed use development for the subject property and recommended future development for the subject property under the MXD Zone as the most appropriate classification for comprehensive planning and development of this property. The subject application and accompanying Amended Sketch Plan therefore conform to the recommendations in the area master plan.
- 10. The City Council has also considered the impacts of this application upon the public facilities serving this area. This applicant has proposed with the input of City staff and county and state transportation planning officials a series of traffic mitigation measures, including considerable public road improvements. With the implementation of these transportation improvements which will be imposed as binding elements and conditions of approval of the Amended Sketch Plan, the City Council finds from the evidence of record that the Transportation facilities will be adequate to handle traffic generated by the development proposed in the Amended Sketch Plan.

The final area of the public facilities inquiry pertains to the impact of this project on public school facilities serving this area. The type of project intended based on comparable projects elsewhere in the county reflect an overall lower pupil yield, than traditional developments. However, the area elementary school and high school reflect rated capacity problems.

To affirmatively address school capacity questions that have been raised by the Application, the applicant has proposed an acceptable program of phasing development to mitigate the effects on school facilities to attempt to coordinate this development with planned capital improvements by the school system to relieve these conditions. The Mayor and Council therefore find that the construction and occupancy of the 727 units approved as a part of the Application shall be conditioned and such conditions shall be applicable to the approved Amended Sketch Plan and all schematic plan(s) and final site plan(s) for the Project. The Mayor and Council further find that in imposing these conditions all applicable requirements concerning the adequacy and/or capacity of schools to serve the Project are deemed to be satisfied.

The Mayor and Council further find that the adherence by the Applicant to the conditions set forth in this approval shall permit the Applicant to obtain all necessary approvals and permits, including building and use and occupancy permits for the commencement, continued construction, full build-out and occupancy of the Project without the necessity for future inquiry into the issues of school adequacy and/or occupancy.

11. Based upon the evidence of record, the City Council finds that approval of the subject property for the MXD Zone will provide for a comprehensive and systematic

development of the City and would be in the public interest. Therefore application Z-291 is granted.

12. Based upon the evidence of record, the City Council further finds that approval of the accompanying Amended Sketch Plan subject to imposition and implementation of the following conditions relating to phasing and occupancy of units and transportation facility improvements by the applicant, would be in the public interest and is hereby approved.

PHASING PROGRAM

The approved phasing schedule for construction and occupancy of the 727 dwelling units shall be implemented as follows:

DWELLING UNIT CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPANCY PHASING PLAN

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
18 SFD 451 Multi-Family Apartments		226	18 225	
112 Condo's		40	40	32
146 TH's	24	48	36	38

- a. Construction may commence on all Phase I units immediately upon the issuance of building permits; however, no units constructed as part of Phase I shall be occupied prior to June 15, 2003.
- b. Construction may commence on all Phase II units and the Phase III Apartments on or after January 1, 2002; however, no units in Phase II or the Phase III Apartments may be occupied prior to June 15, 2003.
- c. Construction may commence on the remainder of the Phase III units on or after January 2, 2002; however, no single-family dwellings, townhouses or condominiums from Phase III may be occupied prior to January 1, 2004.
- d. Construction may commence on all Phase IV units on or after January 1, 2002; however, no Phase IV units may be occupied prior to January 1, 2005.
- e. Applicant may petition the Mayor and City Council for approval to accelerate the Dwelling Unit Construction and Occupancy Phasing Plan. To grant an accelerated Dwelling Unit Construction and Occupancy Phasing Plan, the Mayor and City Council must find that schools are or will be adequate to

serve the Project under the proposed accelerated Dwelling Unit Construction and Occupancy Phasing Plan.

- f. Notwithstanding any actual future school construction or planned construction in the Gaithersburg Cluster, no further evaluations of school adequacy and/or capacity shall be required for full build-out and occupancy of the Project as long as the phasing plan provisions are met by the Applicant. The requirements of this phasing plan shall terminate upon the Applicant's completion and occupancy of Phase IV of this Project.
- g. The Applicant may proceed with clearing, grading, installation of the stormwater management, and other site preparation work and utility work on all or part of the property upon receipt of the required plan and permit approvals, and these activities are not intended to be conditioned or restricted by the Construction and Occupancy Phasing Plan.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES.

The Applicant shall undertake and complete all transportation facility improvements and actions stated in applicant's counsels letter to Jennifer Russell, Director of the City Planning and Code Enforcement Department dated May 7, 2001 as more fully detailed in Attachment 1 to such letter entitled "Hidden Creek Summary of Road Improvements Recommended by City and County" dated April 12, 2001 and Attachments 2(a), (b) and (c) to said letter of May 7, 2001 being collectively the consolidated recommendations from the Montgomery County Department of Public Works by letters dated October 26, 2000, December 11, 2001 and January 31, 2001 to planning and transportation officials of the City.

ADOPTED this 21st day of May, 2001 by the City Council of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

SIDNEY A. KATZ, Mayor President of the Council

DELIVERED to the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, this 21st day of May, 2001. APPROVED/VETOED by the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, this 21st day of May, 2001.

SIDNEY KATZ, Mayor

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled, on the 21st day of May, 2001 and that the same was approved by the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg on the 21st day of May, 2001. This Ordinance will become effective on the 11th day of June, 2001.

David B. Humpton, City Manager

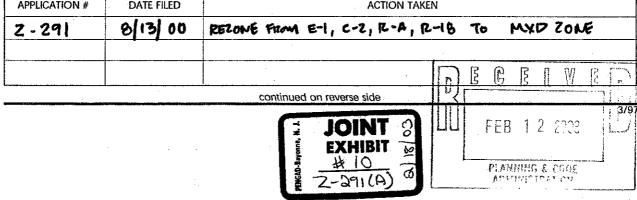


City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877 • Telephone: (301) 258-6330 • Fax: (301) 258-6336

AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING MAP APPROVED SKETCH PLAN CASE Z-291 In accordance with Chapter 24, Article VIII of the City Code

Application No. Z. 291 (A)
Filing Date Feb 12, 2003
Fee
PC Hearing 2/18/03
PC Recomendation
M & CC Hearing 2/18/03
Decision
Date

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Map or plat prepared by registered surveyor or engineer showing land and existing buildings for which the map amendment
 is sought, the bordering properties, streets and street names, lot and block designations, north arrow and key map, age and
 location of existing buildings, property size in acres/square feet. The area which is the subject of the application should be
 outlined in red. (10 copies)
- · Legal metes and bounds of property
- Fee (see separate schedule)
- · List of names and addresses of all property owners within 200 feet of any boundary of subject property
- Statement demonstrating a change in the neighborhood or a mistake in the Master Plan

If Optional Method submit also:

- Schematic Development Plan (which needs to include):
 - Uses of all buildings and structures
 - Location, height, dimensions of all buildings, structures, and parking areas, dimensions of all buildings
 - Location of points of access to site
 - Existing topography (contours of not more than 5-foot intervals) 100-year flood plains, and other natural features
 - Utility Easements
 - · Natural Resource Inventory (See Environmental Standards)
- Proposed Covenant

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	Applicant proposes to limit uses on the subject parcel to the following:	KEZINGM III	HC DEO	elopment	
	TO INCLUSE 16 S.F. DETACHED UNITS, 330 S.F. ATTACK	HOO UNITS, 116	2/2 001	100'5. 2 9WM	FACILITY
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Within five (5) days after filing the application, the applicant shall erect appropriate signs, posting notice of the requested zoning map amendment public hearing (per Section 24-196e of the City Code). The signs are made available to the applicant from the City staff and must remain posted until thirty (30) days after the decision on the application.

I have read and complied with the submission requirements and affirm that all statements contained herein are true and correct.

Applicant's Signature	Date _	2.12.03	
Owner's Signature	Date	2.12.03	



CITY OF GAITHERSBURG 31 South Summit Avenue Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877 Telephone: 301-258-6330

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Gaithersburg Mayor and Council and Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing at the time and place noted below.

Meeting:

PUBLIC HEARING

Application Type:

AMENDMENT TO REZONING SKETCH PLAN

File Number:

Z-291(A)

Location:

GOSHEN ROAD AND ODEN'HAL AVENUE

Applicant:

HIDDEN CREEK I LLC, SANDLER AT HIDDEN CREEK LLC,

HIDDEN CREEK II LLC, CHURCHILL DEVELOPMENT CORP

Development:

HIDDEN CREEK LAND BAY III

Day/ Date/Time:

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

Place:

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

31 SOUTH SUMMIT AVENUE

***IMPORTANT ***

This application requests to amend the approved Zoning Map Amendment Application Z-291 sketch plan known as Hidden Creek Land Bay III in the Mixed-Use Development (MXD) Zone by reducing the unit count to 462 dwelling units (16 Single-Family Detached, 330 Single-Family Attached, and 116 2-over-2 Piggyback Condominium Units) on approximately 56 Acres of land. Contact the Planning and Code Administration City Staff (listed below) at 301-258-6330 if you should have any questions and/or to learn more about this process and your ability to offer testimony and input.

Joint Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission meetings can be viewed live on Gaithersburg Cable Television Channel 13, and at anytime (on demand) two weeks after the public hearing via the Internet and Web TV at http://www.ci.gaithersburg.md.us.

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

Trudy M. W. Schwarz, Community Planning Director

Planning and Code Administration

SEE LOCATION MAP ON REVERSE SIDE

JOINT EXHIBIT 0/0/23 Z-29/CA

NOTICES SENT THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2003, TO:

APPLICANT AND INTERESTED PARTIES

(A list of interested parties and agencies is available in the file at the Planning and Code Administration Office.)

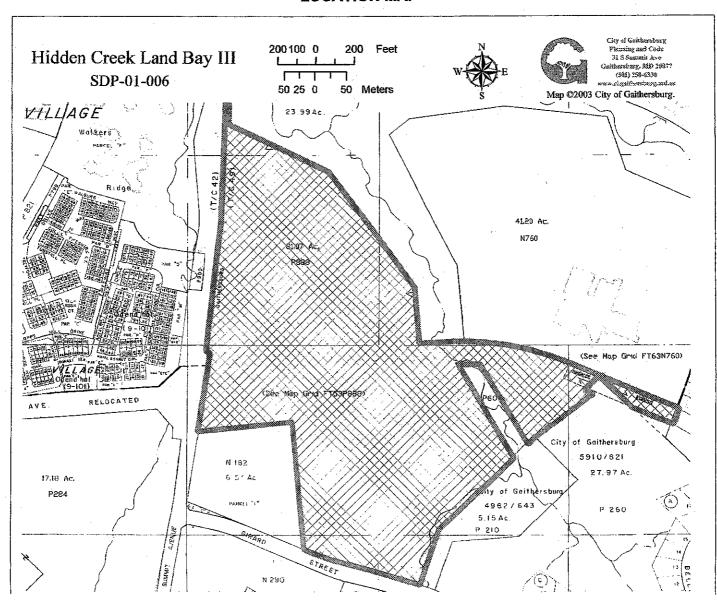
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMISSION

CITY STAFF

David B. Humpton, City Manager Frederick J. Felton, Assistant City Manager Tony Tomasello, Assistant City Manager Stanley D. Abrams, City Attorney Mary Beth Smith, Public Information Director Doris Stokes, Administrative Assistant Jeff Baldwin, City Web Administrator (via email)

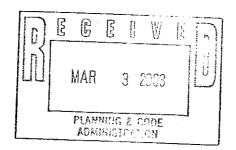
LOCATION MAP



LINOWESANDBLOCHERLLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

February 28, 2003



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Honorable Sidney Katz, Mayor and Members of the City Council City of Gaithersburg 31 South Summit Avenue Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission 31 South Summit Avenue Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Re: Hidden Creek - Land Bay III

Dear Mayor Katz and Members of the City Council and City Planning Commission:

This office represents the owners and developers of Land Bay III of the Hidden Creek development (collectively, "Owners"). The purpose of this letter is to provide the Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission with a brief summary of the history of the project. We hope this background information will be helpful when considering the proposed alternative sketch plan and schematic development plan for Land Bay III ("Alternative Plans"). Please include this letter in the March 10, 2003 public hearing record.

On June 7, 1971, the City and Eugene B. Casey entered into an Annexation Agreement concerning approximately 170 acres of land ("Casey Property") located on the east side of Goshen Road north of Old Towne. Pursuant to the Annexation Agreement, the Casey Property was annexed into the City and zoned to permit 1,650 dwelling units and additional retail and employment uses. In 1981, the City rezoned the Casey Property to a classification which the City believes reduced the permitted density to 837 dwelling units for Land Bays I, II and III (see discussion below regarding Land Bays I and II) which form a portion of the Casey Property. Thereafter, pursuant to the Annexation Agreement in 1983 and 1991, respectively, the Casey Property owner conveyed approximately 10 acres of the property to the State Highway Administration at no cost for the construction of MidCounty Highway and approximately 26 acres of the property to the City at no cost for the Whetstone Run Stream Valley Park. A portion of the Casey Property was also acquired by Montgomery County Public Schools for the Forest Oak Middle School.

In 1997, Odyssey Development LLC ("Odyssey") entered into a contract with the Betty Brown Casey Trust to purchase portions of the Casey Property for development of 837 dwelling units in accordance with the Master Plan and the 1981 comprehensive rezoning. Odyssey filed MXD zoning application No. Z-291 and a proposed sketch plan for development of Land Bay III with

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727 dwelling units, comprised of 18 single-family detached units, 146 single-family attached units, 112 2/2 condominium units, and 451 rental apartments. Odyssey also filed Site Plan Application No. SP-01-0008 to develop Land Bays I and II, located north of MidCounty Highway, with 110 units, for a total residential density of 837 units. On May 21, 2001, the Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance No. 0-8-01 which rezoned Land Bay III to the MXD Zone and approved the proposed sketch plan for 727 units. The Planning Commission approved the site plan application for Land Bays I and II on August 22, 2001.

On July 13, 2001, Centex Homes, Inc. filed Schematic Development Plan Application No. SDP-01-006 ("SDP") for Land Bay III. The SDP application proposed development of Land Bay III with 727 units consistent with the approved sketch plan. However, on January 7, 2002, the City adopted Ordinance No. 0-1-02 which authorized the City Council to institute a 12-month deferral of all pending residential schematic development plan applications. On January 22, 2002, the City imposed the residential deferral on the SDP. The City also denied the Owners' request for an exemption from the deferral. The Owners then filed an administrative appeal challenging the City's actions. This lawsuit is pending.

While the development deferral was being implemented, the City conducted several Master Plan worksessions concerning proposed revisions to the Master Plan. During the worksessions, the City expressed its belief that the proposed development of Land Bay III was too dense, notwithstanding the density permitted by the Annexation Agreement, Ordinance No. 0-8-01 and the approved sketch plan. The City also recommended that rental apartments not be constructed on Land Bay III.

In an effort to resolve the ongoing disputes with the City concerning the development of Land Bay III, the Owners are negotiating an addendum to the Annexation Agreement and have prepared the Alternative Plans in anticipation that a final agreement will be reached with the City. The Alternative Plans are proposed by Owners as part of this effort and without prejudice or waiver of Owners' prior approved plans or positions related thereto. The Alternative Plans have been reviewed with the City Manager, City Attorney and other City Staff and are the subject of the March 10, 2003 joint public hearing. The Alternative Plans propose a 265 unit reduction in residential density on Land Bay III. In accordance with the City's desires, the Alternative Plans do not include any apartments.

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To implement the development shown on the Alternative Plans, a waiver of certain road code, stream valley buffer and landscaping standards must be granted. Each waiver request is described in detail in the attached letter dated February 28, 2003 (Attachment 1). The road code waiver is consistent with the road code waiver previously approved by the Mayor and Council for Land Bay I and would also have been required to implement the development shown on the previously approved sketch plan for Land Bay III. Similarly, the stream valley buffer disturbance proposed by the Alternative Plans would also have occurred under the previously approved sketch plan. However, as a result of the reduced residential density and the revised design shown on the Alternative Plans, two sanitary sewer outfalls previously required within the stream valley buffer have been eliminated. Only a single sanitary sewer outfall is required to implement the Alternative Plans. The Owners also request a wiaver of the technical requirement to provide "street trees" on all public streets. Street trees will be provided along public streets where a narrower planting strips will exist. Ornamental trees or street trees will be provided along all public streets.

We look forward to discussing this with the Mayor and Council and Planning Commission at the March 10, 2003 public hearing on the Alternative Plans. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

LINOWES AND BLOCHER

Barbara A Sears

Todd D. **B**fown

Enclosure

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cc:

Mr. David Humpton

Mr. Fred Felton

Ms. Trudy Schwarz

Mr. Howard Katz

Mr. Robert Larkin

Mr. Steven Sandler

Mr. Richard Braver

Mr. Thomas Hudson

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